

March 29, 1984

LB 1128

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Lowell Johnson will briefly discuss the overrides relative to the Historical Society and the Military Department.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lowell Johnson.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the two items, covered first under Agency 54, which is the Nebraska State Historical Society, and it appears on your sheets as item #13. You are all aware I am sure of the trouble that was encountered last fall when someone broke into one of the historic houses over here, the Ferguson House, just across the corner from us, and one of the employees was viciously attacked and injured. That was probably the result of some of the action that was not taken a year ago when the Historical Society requested funds for additional security measures and we or the Governor failed to act at that time. So this \$33,083 would provide funding for the additional personnel which are badly needed due to the security problem existing at the Ferguson Mansion. If the amount is not available, the operations of this particular house may have to be concluded without any further opening of it. On the second item, your #3, military tuition assistance, I am sure that you are all aware that a member of the National Guard at the present time who enrolls in a state supported institution of higher learning is entitled to a 75 percent tuition credit. The general funds for reimbursement are appropriated annually to the Military Department. The educational institution compiles a record of the total dollar amount of the tuition credits granted for each academic term and submits a request for the reimbursement to the National Guard. Now it has been alleged that the educational institution could and should absorb these requests accruing from over 1600 participants in this very important program. I should point out to you, however, that there is no justification or basis for this particular line-item veto. Cost of the program is covered under statute and I shall quote from Section 85-508 which says in part after the request has been received from the National Guard, and I quote, "Upon receipt of the request, the National Guard shall", and I emphasize the word